

INTRODUCTION OF THE POST OFFICE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2001

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress dedicated to making the federal government a better partner in building livable communities. Perhaps the most important opportunity for realizing this goal is to ensure that the federal government lead by example through such simple actions as locating federal facilities in ways that support existing communities.

Today I am introducing the Post Office Community Partnership Act. This legislation, similar to the bills I introduced in the 105th and 106th Congresses, outlines minimum community contact procedures that the United States Postal Service must pursue for any proposed closing, consolidation, relocation, or construction of a post office. Simply put, the bill requires the Postal Service to comply with local zoning, planning, or other land use laws.

This bill is being introduced with 57 bipartisan original cosponsors. In the 106th Congress this bill was supported by 240 bipartisan cosponsors. Identical companion legislation is being introduced this week by Senators JAMES JEFFORDS of Vermont and MAX BAUCUS of Montana. This continued and widespread support, in addition to the multitude of letters received from constituents and stories in newspapers throughout the country, illustrates the important need for this bill to become law.

The Post Office Community Partnership Act takes another step in making the federal government a better partner with communities and local governments. It is important that local officials and citizens have input into the decisions that impact the daily livability of their communities. Additionally, this bill addresses the need for the Postal Service to abide by a community's own plans for growth management, land use, traffic management, and environmental protection—rules by which all citizens and businesses must adhere.

Communities and neighborhoods across the country have been subjected to Postal Service decisions that have negatively impacted service to postal customers and community development. This bill provides communities an opportunity to be notified of Postal Service plans in advance, which will allow for interaction in the decision-making process between local government officials, the public, and the Postal Service. The beneficial results of this type of interaction can be seen from Fairview Village in my congressional district to Castine, Maine.

In Fairview Village, Oregon, by working with the developers of the community, the post office was the first civic building constructed in the area and acted as an anchor for what has developed into a retail street. By centrally locating the post office as the developers proposed, residents can easily walk or drive to the post office from anywhere in Fairview Village. In Castine, Maine, the Postal Service proposed moving the oldest operating post office in the country—a national historic landmark—from its downtown location to the suburbs. After a public outcry, the Postal Service and the Town of Castine worked together to find a way to expand the existing building and

keep the post office in its historic downtown location.

Despite these examples, too often the Postal Service does not involve the community and instead relies on the fact that they are not required to follow local land use laws when building new facilities or renovating existing facilities.

The Post Office Community Partnership Act puts in place basic procedures for notifying local officials and post office customers of any planned facility changes or construction. The Act also requires that the Postal Service follow local land use laws, procedures and public participation requirements to the same extent and manner as other private enterprises. It has been shown that the Postal Service can manage this process without hampering its mission of cost effective and efficient universal service as evidenced by Fairview Village, Oregon and Castine, Maine. It is time to ensure that the Postal Service operates within the same framework and rules that a community imposes on its own citizens and businesses.

The Post Office Community Partnership Act would establish community notification and land use policies and procedures that should have been in place all along. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that will help ensure that the post office is a productive federal partner in building livable communities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GERRITT BENJAMIN MEYERS III, CHAE CARLSON AND OLIVER MARTIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of three Lansing, Michigan, 2001 high school graduates who have played a major role in the selection and celebration of the nation's Capitol 2001 Holiday Tree, which will be provided by the state of Michigan this year.

Mr. Gerritt Benjamin Meyers III, Ms. Chae Carlson, and Mr. Oliver Martin have worked with a group of underclassmen at Waverly High School in Lansing for the past five months to create and maintain the U.S. Holiday Tree 2001 web site. As the senior members of their "Webmasters" group, Mr. Meyers, Ms. Carlson and Mr. Martin provided leadership, working many volunteer hours with the team to produce an attractive, well-organized web site that is easy to navigate and filled with helpful information. Mr. Meyers designed the Michigan map with holiday tree that forms the artistic theme for the pages and each of these seniors has participated in developing graphics and page layouts and also in updating the pages as plans for the selection, cutting and transport of the tree continue.

Their efforts leave a legacy for Michigan and the citizens of this nation who will enjoy not only the holiday tree but also the web site designed by Mr. Meyers, Ms. Carlson, Mr. Martin and their classmates and instructor/advisor Ms. Janice Kesel. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Gerritt Benjamin Meyers III, Ms. Chae Carlson and Mr. Oliver Martin for their mature, professional approach to chronicling the holiday tree and designing www.holidaytree2001.org

NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR STURGE-WEBER SYNDROME

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MALONEY and I rise today to recognize today as a national day of awareness for Sturge-Weber syndrome. We feel that it is important to recognize this day because Mrs. Karla Priepeke, a native of Haddon Heights, New Jersey and resident of Sandy Hook Connecticut, brought her son's plight to our attention. Her son is affected by this disease and rather than turn inward she has made it her mission to inform and educate members of the society and especially the medical community about this disease. This is why we wish to do our small part to increase awareness of this disease by submitting this Sturge-Weber Foundation press release for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on this national day of awareness of Sturge-Weber Syndrome.

Sturge-Weber Syndrome is a congenital disorder most easily recognized by a port wine stain on the face and/or body. No one is sure how or why it occurs. Babies born with Sturge-Weber can suffer from any or all of these complications: glaucoma, blindness, seizures that range from mild to the need to remove half the brain, mental retardation, and paralysis. The port wine stain often elicits rude stares and outrageously intrusive remarks from the public.

The Sturge-Weber Foundation (www.sturge-weber.com) is establishing May 16, 2001 as the second national Day of Awareness for Sturge-Weber Syndrome. People will make a donation to the Foundation and wear a Sturge-Weber sticker on May 16th. They will receive a packet of information about the syndrome and the work of the Foundation so they can answer questions from colleagues and friends.

The Sturge-Weber Foundation was created in 1987—the result of tenacious parents who refused to accept that all that was known about Sturge-Weber were three paragraphs in medical textbooks. Through Herculean volunteer efforts, the Foundation support group started. Their outstanding web site links families all over the United States and in many parts of the world. The Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for individuals with Sturge-Weber Syndrome by acting as a clearinghouse for information, providing emotional support, and facilitating research. A minuscule 8 percent of funds taken in goes towards administration. The rest, including what's collected for the National Day of Awareness, goes directly to education, emotional support and research.

The Foundation has attracted the attention and respect of a dozen teams of scientists who are tackling the question of how Sturge-Weber occurs from different angles. Klippel-Trenaunay is a related syndrome in which port wine stains on limbs extend to muscle tissue and bone affecting circulation and mobility. Most children with port wine stains have neither Sturge-Weber Syndrome nor Klippel-Trenaunay. Of course, these can cause dermatological complications as the child matures.

Sadly, the culture in the United States overemphasizes the importance of physical beauty

which adds to the emotional burdens of children and adults with Port Wine Stains, Klippel-Trenaunay, and Sturge-Weber. The Foundation has made progress in research and is determined to press on to find out everything they can about this family of syndromes.

LETTER FROM MELVIN HONOWITZ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago, I entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD letters from individuals or their representatives who took issue with assertions made in the report released last fall by the House Government Reform Committee majority regarding the Department of Justice. Since then, yet another individual has written to complain of inaccuracies and unfairness in the majority's report. In the interest of a complete record on this matter, I submit into the RECORD this March 30, 2001, letter from Melvin Honowitz.

HONOWITZ & SHAW, ATTORNEYS AT LAW,

ONE MARITIME PLAZA, SUITE 1725,

San Francisco, CA, March 30, 2001.

Re: Palladino & Sutherland, and Jack Palladino.

The Honorable DAN BURTON,
Committee on Government Reform, Washington, DC.

The Honorable HENRY A. WAXMAN,
2204 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MESSRS. BURTON AND WAXMAN: This office represents Palladino & Sutherland and Jack Palladino, nationally known private investigators [hereafter the "client"]. We write without waiver of any applicable privilege to address the false allegations, accusations, assumptions, innuendos, speculations and references to our client contained in Chapter 10 of the Committee's report entitled "Janet Reno's Stewardship of the Justice Department: A Failure To Serve The Ends of Justice."

The report's allegations as to Jack Palladino are premised on the false assumption that Mr. Palladino, or someone under his direction or control, had a "source in the Bureau of Prisons," and that his "source" obtained NCIC information on Nabuo Abe. The Committee's assumption is false and defamatory.

Moreover, the record on which the Committee relies is void of evidence in support of this assumption. Page 157, Section 1.a. of the reports is entitled "Soka Gakkai Illegally Obtained Information on Nabuo Abe Through Jack Palladino." Except for this defamatory heading, the report utterly fails to present evidence to support the accusation. In fact, the only references to Jack Palladino in this Section states, without supporting documentation, "Palladino then apparently contacted a source in the Bureau of Prisons who had access to the NCIC data base." [emphasis added] This is untrue and never happened.

The report then goes on to make the untrue and unsubstantiated statement that "the source at the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) broke the law, as did possibly Langberg and Palladino." [emphasis added] In a manner more reminiscent of Kafka or perhaps Alice's Adventures In Wonderland, the report makes allegations of criminal acts which, prior to publication, the Committee never gave our clients an opportunity to refute. Accordingly, one must not only question the lack of

due process afforded our client, but the underlying bias of the report's findings and the Committee's investigation.

Then, in Section 1.b, the report gratuitously speculates as to why attorney Rebekah Poston may have sought NCIC records: "perhaps they were concerned with the reliability of Mr. Palladino's work . . ." In fact, in advancing this speculation the Committee ignores its own Exhibit 62 to the report which identifies where Ms. Poston obtained her alleged NCIC information, and makes no reference to Jack Palladino or Palladino & Sutherland or anyone under their direction and control.

Even a cursory review of the Committee's Report and attached Exhibits demonstrates a complete lack of evidence. The only mention of Mr. Palladino in the Exhibits supporting the report is contained in unfounded and false speculation and innuendo that Mr. Palladino (for reasons never made clear) might have "set up" Poston and Manuel in some undefined manner (Exhibit 97). Similar raw speculation appears in Exhibits 98 and 104 and is false.

In his letter of October 31, 2000 to the Committee, attorney Barry B. Langberg clearly states the truth:

"Simply put, there is no evidence that Soka Gakkai, Jack Palladino or I committed any crime, or engaged in any improper activity whatsoever. As the report acknowledges the staff failed even to interview Mr. Palladino or me about our role in this matter. These charges are particularly objectionable because they are not even relevant to the report's central thesis, that Ms. Poston and others working at her direction received favorable treatment at the hand of the Justice Department. Thus, these serious attacks are made almost casually, without any claim or relevance to any public purpose.

In fact, even a preliminary investigation would have revealed that the so-called "reliable source," Richard Lucas, never met with Mr. Palladino or discussed with him any of the facts or issues concerning this matter. Further, an investigation would also have shown that I had no personal involvement with the activity criticized in the report."

Mr. Langberg goes on to rebut and refute the allegations, including the speculation that something was planted in or deleted from the NCIC records. A copy of the entire Langberg letter is attached and incorporated by reference as Exhibit A, as are the four Committee exhibits referenced in this letter (Exhibits 62, 97, 98 and 104) attached as Exhibits B.

Be clear, my client did not access nor seek or direct anyone to access the NCIC data base. Accordingly, we request that this letter and Mr. Langberg's letter be read into the Congressional Record and that the report be corrected.

Sincerely,

MELVIN D. HONOWITZ,

Honowitz & Shaw.

IN TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL AND HIS WIFE, DEBBIE DINGELL ON THEIR 20TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime personal friend and colleague, Congressman John Dingell, the dean of the House of Representatives, and his wife,

Debbie Dingell, on the occasion of their 20th wedding anniversary.

As all of us know, John Dingell's hard work and dedication to public service has improved the lives of all Americans. What many people do not know, is that he has had an unrecognized partner in those good works, his wife Debbie. Together they have done a tremendous amount of good for the American people, both with charity work, the work they do with our party and the support that they give to this institution.

Debbie and John met during their constant travels together between Michigan and Washington, DC. Mrs. Dingell was working for the General Motors Corporation, while John Dingell had already been a Congressman for 20 years. Debbie Dingell is a nationally recognized advocate for women and children around the country. She has been involved in countless charitable organizations, including the Susan B. Koman Foundation and the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health.

With both of them working as a strong team, John Dingell has worked to protect the environment, improve health care, and defend the consumer from unsafe products and unfair practices. In fact, John has authored some of America's most important environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in the House of Representatives with John Dingell. I congratulate him and Debbie for their 20 year wedding anniversary, and wish them every happiness.

HONORING JOELLE MARTINEZ OF THE SANTA FE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, for the past 13 years, the Santa Fe Boys and Girls Club on Alto Street has been a source of inspiration for Joelle Martinez. On March 16, 2001, Ms. Martinez was rewarded for her hard work and determination when she was named the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Youth of the Year program serves to recognize outstanding young people for their superior leadership skills, academic achievements, triumph over personal hardships, as outstanding contributions to the community.

Ms. Martinez had to endure a rigorous selection process in which she submitted a packet that included essays regarding her involvement at school, in church, with her family, and at the Boys and Girls Club to show her leadership skills within the community. After her packet was evaluated, seven judges, most of whom were Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, conducted interviews and selected Ms. Martinez for the award.

Ms. Martinez, a senior at Calvary Chapel Christian Academy, first came to the Boys and Girls Club when she was five years old, and she has actively participated ever since.

Over the years, Ms. Martinez has participated in numerous activities aimed at keeping at-risk students involved in the community and off the streets. She has been involved in basketball, swimming, photography, wrestling,